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5/2/99**POLLUTION REPORT****I. HEADING****Date:** May 12, 1999**Subject:** Industrial Highway/Gary Municipal Airport Oil Release Site,  
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**POLREP:** # 2 - (Reporting period 04/12 thru 05/11/99)**II. BACKGROUND****CERCLIS ID No:** IND067469437**Site No:** Z590**FPN:** 098022**IAG No:** RW69947898-01-0**ID No:** 99HR05F50203D**Start Date:** 04/07/99**Completion Date:** N/A**USGS Hydro Unit:** 04040001**Task Order No:** 9801-05-025**Response Authority:** OPA Fund-lead**NPL Status:** N/A**State Notification:** IDEM**Mobilization Date:** 04/08/99**Action Memo Status:** N/A

### **III. SITE DESCRIPTION**

- A. Incident Category:** Time-Critical Removal Action - Oil Release Hazard  
**B. Site Location:** Gary, Lake County, Indiana  
LAT: 41° 37' 13" No; LONG: 87° 25' 14" West

#### **1. Site description:**

A ditch system which drains portions of the Gary/Chicago Municipal Airport and surrounds the periphery of this airport contains excess amounts of oil and oily products on the western edge of this facility. The ditch system contains water, at depths of one foot to six feet, in it throughout the year and it empties, through a series of culverts and inverts, into the Grand Calumet River which flows at the southern most boundary of the airport, and it articulates with an identified natural wetlands area. The source of the oil may be from the past operations of an oil refinery located on the opposite side of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroad (EJ&E) tracks to the west of this site. Oil has been and it continues to accumulate along the western leg of this ditch creating a release hazard which imminently and substantially endangers the riverine environment of the Grand Calumet River.

#### **2. Description of threat:**

Extensive oil and free phase petroleum product releases, accumulation and contamination in the ditch over an approximate 1700 linear ft. area distance flowing in the immediate direction of the Grand Calumet River. Likewise a natural wetlands area with varied species of wildlife is potentially impacted by this oil release hazard.

#### **C. Preliminary Assessment**

The release hazard was initially documented in U.S. EPA site assessment reports prepared in 1992. The hazard is continuous and has remained unabated since August 1995. The oil product release hazard was addressed in the past by an intricate pump and treat system as an oil and water separator, but that system has not been operational since the summer of 1995. Overall efficiency of the existing system needs to be evaluated insofar as its ability to remove oil and hydrocarbon products, and its apparent capability to discharge "treated water" to the groundwater. Extensive seeps and oily free phase product releases have been continuous in the subject ditch system and into adjacent areas to the west and south of the site, and these were addressed during our initial mobilization which commenced on April 8, 1999.

### **IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION**

#### **A. Situation**

##### **1. Current situation and response actions to date:**

The State of Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has issued a permit for a dredging contractor company to undertake and remove debris and excess sediments from the ditch system, save the +/- 1700 linear ft. portion which is the subject of this removal action and contains the majority of the oil and free phase petroleum product, in order to remove obstructions and to

increase flow rates and enhance drainage capabilities of the ditch. This effort began on 4/26/99 and as of the date of this report the dredging is reported to be 80% complete.

Current removal and response efforts to date at this facility include removal of 200' contaminated boom; pull, decon, and demobe 200' of floatation boom; redeployment of 320' of 8" clean oil absorbent boom; contact with the electric company for service restoration; mobilization of personnel experienced in the servicing, troubleshooting, and reactivation of the existing on-site oil/water separator system, evaluation of a more efficient system of oil removal as an appurtenance to the existing system such as a need for possible addition of a hydrophobic skimmer which is specific for hydrocarbon removal and rejects water uptake. A major advantage to addition of this type of an appurtenance is that it may significantly limit potential liabilities of groundwater discharge associated with the current system.

In addition, an inspection of the product recovery system disclosed that no high level shut-off valve for emergency purposes of overflow is present, and the oil/water separator tank needs servicing and cleaning. Also an evaluation of the two groundwater monitoring wells on the east side of the road adjacent to the ditch is proposed for a determination of their potential use in the treatment chain to serve as active/passive skimmers where and if their diameter size can be upgraded from 2" to 4", and thus, because of the relatively shallow groundwater table, the system would then work to prevent free product flow directly to the ditch. As well, the need for the installation of an additional sump system is being evaluated especially in the locale where the interceptor trench remains with high concentrations and amounts of oil and petroleum products at an area south and west of the present ditch system; similarly, to control the potential of a release to the Grand Calumet River from that location, the construction of an earthen weir is under consideration as a temporary measure.

## **B. Planned Removal Actions**

Transport and disposal arrangements are currently being undertaken to dispose of approximately 60 cubic yards of oil contaminated booms, oil contaminated PPE, and other oil absorbent materials.

After consultation with our agency's ERT oil and hydrogeologic experts to determine the source, extent of contamination, and a long-term strategy for correction of this environmental pollution hazard, the OSC has devised a practical and viable removal solution plan which he has presented to the USCG NPFC for an amendment to the current IAG to fund this strategy for preventing oil from further release.

U.S. EPA continues to use contractor support for start-up and operation of the previously disrupted oil and water separation system. Biweekly boom inspection, maintenance, and their needed replacement are to be conducted until funding is in place to conduct the proposed removal action to stabilize, abate and/or eliminate the oil release hazard at this site.

Planned consultation with the Natural Resources Trustees representatives are pending to determine ecological concerns and potential impacts, whether short-term adverse or long-term beneficial, from the current conditions at this site upon the wetlands areas which bound the locale of the oil release hazard.

### C. Key Issues

1. Determination of responsible party for generating the uncontrolled oil release product which enters this site.
2. Are there liability issues related to the BOA contractor, Clean Harbors, for shutting down the oil/water separator system in 1995 which they installed on this site ?
3. The EJ&E railroad took it upon itself, i.e., they were aware of the oil release hazard, to install a telemetric switching system in the grounds which transect the recognized path of the oil and free phase product release area. The sheathing of the cables for that system may be incompatible with materials in the waste flows, and, as such, over time that system may short out and cause a signal light or other system failure resulting in a railroad accident. The type of sheathing material must be determined and the railroad may need to be alerted to this potential hazard.

### V. COSTS

#### Extramural Costs:

Total Cleanup Contractor Costs	\$ 56,128.00
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START	N/A
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<b>TOTAL, EXTRAMURAL COSTS:</b>	<b><u>\$ 56,128.00</u></b>
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#### Intramural Costs:

Direct Costs (Region, HQ, ERT)	N/A
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Intramural Indirect Costs	N/A
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<b>TOTAL, INTRAMURAL COSTS</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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<b>TOTAL SITE COST</b>	<b>PENDING</b>
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<b>PROJECT CEILING</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>
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<b>PROJECT FUNDS REMAINING AS A PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>55.09%</b>
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\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on amounts known by the OSC at the time of preparation of this report. The cost accounting data shown in this report does not necessarily represent the exact monetary figures which the U.S. government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

### VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

<u>Wastestream</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Collection/Containment</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Disposal</u>
oil contam't'd booms & pads	60 yd <sup>3</sup>	roll-off box standby	N/A	Forest Lawn Landfill, 3 Oaks, MI